

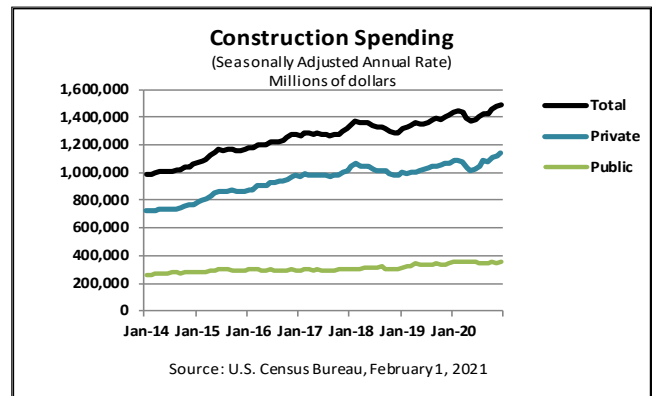
FOR RELEASE AT 10:00 AM EST, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021

MONTHLY CONSTRUCTION SPENDING, DECEMBER 2020

Release Number: CB21-19

February 1, 2021 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following value put in place construction statistics for December 2020:

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING	
DECEMBER 2020	\$1,490.4 billion
NOVEMBER 2020 (revised)	\$1,475.6 billion
Next release: March 1, 2021	
Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate Source: U.S. Census Bureau, February 1, 2021	



Total Construction

Construction spending during December 2020 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,490.4 billion, 1.0 percent (± 0.8 percent) above the revised November estimate of \$1,475.6 billion. The December figure is 5.7 percent (± 1.0 percent) above the December 2019 estimate of \$1,410.3 billion.

The value of construction in 2020 was \$1,429.7 billion, 4.7 percent (± 1.0 percent) above the \$1,365.1 billion spent in 2019.

Private Construction

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1,137.6 billion, 1.2 percent (± 0.7 percent) above the revised November estimate of \$1,124.4 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$691.0 billion in December, 3.1 percent (± 1.3 percent) above the revised November estimate of \$670.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$446.6 billion in December, 1.7 percent (± 0.7 percent) below the revised November estimate of \$454.4 billion.

The value of private construction in 2020 was \$1,079.3 billion, 4.7 percent (± 0.8 percent) above the \$1,030.7 billion spent in 2019. Residential construction in 2020 was \$607.6 billion, 11.6 percent (± 2.1 percent) above the 2019 figure of \$544.4 billion and nonresidential construction was \$471.7 billion, 3.0 percent (± 0.8 percent) below the \$486.3 billion in 2019.

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Public Construction

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$352.8 billion, 0.5 percent (± 1.3 percent)* above the revised November estimate of \$351.1 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$90.2 billion, 0.6 percent (± 1.5 percent)* above the revised November estimate of \$89.7 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$98.4 billion, 0.9 percent (± 3.5 percent)* above the revised November estimate of \$97.5 billion.

The value of public construction in 2020 was \$350.5 billion, 4.8 percent (± 1.6 percent) above the \$334.4 billion spent in 2019. Educational construction in 2020 was \$87.3 billion, 3.6 percent (± 3.3 percent) above the 2019 figure of \$84.3 billion and highway construction was \$98.8 billion, 1.8 percent (± 4.1 percent)* above the \$97.1 billion in 2019.

The January 2021 Monthly Construction Spending Report is scheduled for release on March 1, 2021. View the full schedule in the Economic Briefing Room: <www.census.gov/economic-indicators/>. The full text and tables for this release can be found at <www.census.gov/constructionspending/>.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 2 months to establish an underlying trend for total construction and as long as 8 months for specific categories of construction. The statistics in this release are estimated from several sources and surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimates of the standard errors are provided in Table 3. Whenever a statement such as "2.3 (± 3.1) percent above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.8 to +5.4 percent) in which the actual percentage change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given are 90 percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Statistics for the current month are preliminary estimates subject to revision in following months as additional data become available. The average absolute percent changes from preliminary estimate to first revision for the major seasonally adjusted components are as follows: total construction, 1.00 percent; private construction, 1.33 percent; and public construction, 0.87 percent. Explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability can be found on our website at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/methodology.html/>.

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RESOURCES

API

The Census Bureau's application programming interface lets developers create custom apps to reach new users and makes key demographic, socio-economic and housing statistics more accessible than ever before. <www.census.gov/developers/>

FRED Mobile App



Receive the latest updates on the nation's key economic indicators by downloading the FRED App <<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/fred-mobile/>> for both Apple and Android devices. FRED, the signature database of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, now incorporates the Census Bureau's 13 economic indicators.

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* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

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Table 1. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Dec 2020 ^p	Nov 2020 ^r	Oct 2020 ^r	Sep 2020	Aug 2020	Dec 2019	Percent change Dec 2020 from -	
							Nov 2020	Dec 2019
Total Construction	1,490,387	1,475,559	1,458,989	1,423,963	1,426,884	1,410,267	1.0	5.7
Residential	700,173	679,148	659,365	629,972	624,410	579,863	3.1	20.7
Nonresidential	790,215	796,411	799,624	793,991	802,475	830,404	-0.8	-4.8
Lodging	24,268	25,945	26,499	26,672	27,550	31,950	-6.5	-24.0
Office	79,491	79,530	79,331	80,422	80,914	82,504	0.0	-3.7
Commercial	81,069	83,340	83,580	82,822	83,566	81,882	-2.7	-1.0
Health care	45,326	46,397	47,726	47,848	48,269	48,304	-2.3	-6.2
Educational	106,418	105,978	104,518	103,304	100,845	105,464	0.4	0.9
Religious	3,146	3,226	3,229	3,200	3,115	3,145	-2.5	0.0
Public safety	15,125	15,524	15,898	15,129	15,675	11,921	-2.6	26.9
Amusement and recreation	25,074	25,293	25,884	26,231	26,792	29,692	-0.9	-15.6
Transportation	57,418	56,713	56,453	56,030	55,928	58,108	1.2	-1.2
Communication	21,965	21,953	22,445	22,425	22,877	22,472	0.1	-2.3
Power	115,167	114,539	115,308	115,270	117,016	129,506	0.5	-11.1
Highway and street	98,647	97,761	97,322	91,463	94,161	95,191	0.9	3.6
Sewage and waste disposal	26,917	26,339	26,619	26,957	26,486	26,219	2.2	2.7
Water supply	18,415	18,357	18,703	18,688	19,106	17,414	0.3	5.7
Conservation and development	7,822	7,848	8,118	7,664	8,250	9,137	-0.3	-14.4
Manufacturing	63,948	67,670	67,993	69,866	71,924	77,495	-5.5	-17.5
Total Private Construction¹	1,137,565	1,124,422	1,107,566	1,081,305	1,083,208	1,067,660	1.2	6.5
Residential ²	691,000	670,051	650,484	620,941	615,396	572,387	3.1	20.7
New single family	365,032	345,114	326,299	307,382	290,128	295,520	5.8	23.5
New multifamily	91,369	91,297	90,804	89,450	87,311	77,542	0.1	17.8
Nonresidential	446,565	454,372	457,082	460,365	467,812	495,274	-1.7	-9.8
Lodging	23,324	24,920	25,327	25,644	26,468	30,918	-6.4	-24.6
Office	69,016	68,895	68,685	69,614	69,639	71,388	0.2	-3.3
Commercial	77,003	79,221	79,508	78,951	79,601	78,076	-2.8	-1.4
Health care	35,741	36,849	37,838	38,022	38,967	39,151	-3.0	-8.7
Educational	16,184	16,320	16,331	16,769	17,139	19,102	-0.8	-15.3
Religious	3,132	3,216	3,217	3,197	3,107	3,145	-2.6	-0.4
Amusement and recreation	11,386	11,463	11,556	11,749	12,124	14,702	-0.7	-22.6
Transportation	15,638	15,302	15,038	14,711	14,504	15,896	2.2	-1.6
Communication	21,807	21,801	22,291	22,268	22,721	22,348	0.0	-2.4
Power	108,537	107,879	108,489	108,637	110,446	121,685	0.6	-10.8
Manufacturing	63,624	67,381	67,681	69,502	71,581	77,221	-5.6	-17.6
Total Public Construction³	352,822	351,137	351,423	342,658	343,677	342,606	0.5	3.0
Residential	9,172	9,098	8,882	9,032	9,013	7,476	0.8	22.7
Nonresidential	343,650	342,039	342,542	333,626	334,663	335,130	0.5	2.5
Office	10,475	10,635	10,646	10,808	11,274	11,117	-1.5	-5.8
Commercial	4,066	4,119	4,072	3,872	3,964	3,806	-1.3	6.8
Health care	9,585	9,548	9,887	9,826	9,302	9,153	0.4	4.7
Educational	90,234	89,658	88,187	86,535	83,706	86,362	0.6	4.5
Public safety	15,019	15,430	15,798	15,038	15,563	11,760	-2.7	27.7
Amusement and recreation	13,688	13,830	14,328	14,483	14,668	14,990	-1.0	-8.7
Transportation	41,780	41,411	41,415	41,319	41,424	42,212	0.9	-1.0
Power	6,631	6,661	6,819	6,633	6,571	7,820	-0.5	-15.2
Highway and street	98,413	97,541	97,063	91,208	93,840	94,734	0.9	3.9
Sewage and waste disposal	26,631	26,027	26,280	26,659	26,069	25,605	2.3	4.0
Water supply	17,922	17,910	18,350	18,143	18,562	17,077	0.1	4.9
Conservation and development	7,768	7,792	8,047	7,553	8,129	9,065	-0.3	-14.3

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes private residential improvements.

³Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Data are at an annual rate, adjusted for seasonality but not price changes. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, February 1, 2021. Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>

Table 2. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Not Seasonally Adjusted
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Dec 2020 ^p	Nov 2020 ^r	Oct 2020 ^r	Sep 2020	Aug 2020	Dec 2019	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2020	Dec 2019	Percent change
Total Construction	112,706	124,760	130,540	130,398	132,381	106,347	1,429,735	1,365,137	4.7
Residential	51,319	58,389	58,965	57,363	58,458	41,693	616,169	550,942	11.8
Nonresidential	61,387	66,371	71,575	73,035	73,924	64,654	813,566	814,195	-0.1
Lodging	1,986	2,152	2,257	2,287	2,340	2,609	28,487	33,071	-13.9
Office	6,329	6,750	7,011	7,127	7,108	6,587	81,139	84,862	-4.4
Commercial	6,477	6,958	7,439	7,475	7,373	6,495	83,848	80,435	4.2
Health care	3,738	3,914	4,191	4,235	4,116	3,984	47,512	45,560	4.3
Educational	7,596	8,123	8,721	9,233	10,256	7,594	104,508	105,374	-0.8
Religious	252	272	294	295	288	251	3,157	3,544	-10.9
Public safety	1,221	1,324	1,369	1,523	1,354	970	14,995	10,530	42.4
Amusement and recreation	1,990	2,112	2,299	2,357	2,387	2,362	26,913	28,803	-6.6
Transportation	4,530	4,890	5,134	5,139	5,073	4,617	56,684	57,154	-0.8
Communication	2,129	1,952	1,935	1,940	1,902	2,135	22,688	22,242	2.0
Power	9,573	9,865	9,958	9,751	9,892	10,836	119,081	113,885	4.6
Highway and street	5,885	7,961	10,178	10,539	10,750	5,395	99,156	97,559	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	2,041	2,236	2,501	2,520	2,475	1,982	26,589	26,089	1.9
Water supply	1,403	1,508	1,658	1,722	1,715	1,312	18,525	15,882	16.6
Conservation and development	665	655	676	789	754	779	8,432	9,126	-7.6
Manufacturing	5,574	5,702	5,955	6,103	6,144	6,747	71,854	80,079	-10.3
Total Private Construction¹	87,627	96,144	98,138	96,598	97,961	82,222	1,079,276	1,030,704	4.7
Residential ²	50,595	57,630	58,179	56,527	57,641	41,107	607,593	544,449	11.6
New single family	27,382	30,280	29,598	28,407	26,783	21,887	302,049	279,962	7.9
New multifamily	7,223	7,696	7,852	7,703	7,544	6,038	85,169	80,110	6.3
Nonresidential	37,032	38,514	39,960	40,071	40,320	41,115	471,682	486,255	-3.0
Lodging	1,908	2,067	2,159	2,201	2,250	2,523	27,437	31,931	-14.1
Office	5,504	5,859	6,081	6,138	6,087	5,698	70,020	73,945	-5.3
Commercial	6,134	6,612	7,091	7,110	7,032	6,182	79,869	76,432	4.5
Health care	2,960	3,118	3,338	3,351	3,318	3,243	38,128	36,287	5.1
Educational	1,220	1,268	1,338	1,391	1,567	1,459	17,224	21,087	-18.3
Religious	251	271	293	295	287	251	3,153	3,544	-11.0
Amusement and recreation	929	956	998	1,008	1,055	1,200	12,654	15,139	-16.4
Transportation	1,332	1,343	1,358	1,295	1,266	1,361	15,473	17,080	-9.4
Communication	2,115	1,939	1,922	1,927	1,889	2,124	22,563	22,112	2.0
Power	9,045	9,306	9,349	9,163	9,319	10,225	112,269	107,146	4.8
Manufacturing	5,547	5,678	5,929	6,073	6,115	6,724	71,528	79,757	-10.3
Total Public Construction³	25,079	28,616	32,402	33,800	34,421	24,125	350,460	334,433	4.8
Residential	724	759	786	836	817	585	8,576	6,493	32.1
Nonresidential	24,355	27,857	31,615	32,964	33,604	23,539	341,884	327,940	4.3
Office	825	890	930	988	1,020	890	11,119	10,916	1.9
Commercial	343	346	347	366	341	312	3,978	4,003	-0.6
Health care	777	795	853	885	798	741	9,384	9,274	1.2
Educational	6,377	6,856	7,382	7,842	8,689	6,135	87,283	84,287	3.6
Public safety	1,212	1,316	1,361	1,515	1,344	957	14,886	10,303	44.5
Amusement and recreation	1,061	1,156	1,301	1,349	1,332	1,163	14,259	13,664	4.4
Transportation	3,198	3,547	3,775	3,844	3,807	3,256	41,211	40,074	2.8
Power	528	559	609	588	573	612	6,813	6,739	1.1
Highway and street	5,868	7,942	10,153	10,515	10,721	5,364	98,829	97,091	1.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2,019	2,210	2,472	2,492	2,437	1,933	26,220	25,408	3.2
Water supply	1,367	1,468	1,626	1,672	1,666	1,286	18,043	15,530	16.2
Conservation and development	661	650	670	779	744	773	8,355	9,059	-7.8

^p Preliminary ^r Revised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes private residential improvements.

³Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, February 1, 2021.

Table 3 provides estimated measures of sampling variability. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>

Table 3. Coefficients of Variation and Standard Errors by Type of Construction
(Percent)

Type of Construction	Coefficient of variation		Standard error		
	Monthly estimate	Year-to-date estimate	Year-to-date change	Month-to-month change	Month-to-month change from prev. year
Total Construction	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6
Residential	4.0	3.8	7.6	2.0	11.5
Nonresidential	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6
Lodging	1.6	1.2	1.4	0.9	2.1
Office	1.5	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.4
Commercial	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.5
Health care	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.0	2.3
Educational	1.7	1.3	1.6	0.8	2.2
Religious	6.4	4.3	5.5	3.3	7.6
Public safety	2.9	1.9	3.7	1.2	3.1
Amusement and recreation	2.4	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.5
Transportation	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.8	1.0
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Highway and street	2.8	1.6	2.5	2.1	3.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2.9	1.7	2.8	2.5	4.7
Water supply	4.1	2.7	3.7	3.6	5.9
Conservation and development	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.1
Manufacturing	1.3	1.6	1.2	0.6	0.9
Total Private Construction	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
New single family	5.0	4.0	6.8	6.0	6.0
New multifamily	5.5	5.2	3.1	1.2	3.5
Nonresidential	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6
Lodging	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.9	2.2
Office	1.7	1.4	1.4	0.9	1.5
Commercial	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.5
Health care	2.2	1.8	2.1	1.2	2.8
Educational	2.5	1.9	2.0	1.1	2.2
Religious	6.4	4.3	5.5	3.4	7.6
Amusement and recreation	3.0	2.2	1.7	1.7	2.1
Transportation	1.4	0.7	1.6	0.5	1.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	1.3	1.6	1.2	0.6	0.9
Total Public Construction	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3
Residential	4.0	3.8	7.6	2.0	11.5
Nonresidential	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.3
Office	2.8	2.6	3.4	2.4	3.2
Commercial	7.1	5.4	6.0	2.6	8.2
Health care	2.2	1.5	2.1	1.4	2.7
Educational	2.0	1.4	2.0	0.9	2.7
Public safety	2.9	1.9	3.8	1.2	3.1
Amusement and recreation	3.4	2.5	3.2	3.3	4.7
Transportation	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.2
Power	6.6	3.6	7.3	7.8	9.2
Highway and street	2.8	1.6	2.5	2.1	3.8
Sewage and waste disposal	2.9	1.8	2.9	2.5	4.8
Water supply	4.2	2.7	3.7	3.6	6.0
Conservation and development	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.1

NA Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, February 1, 2021. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>

Table 4. Annual Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	2020 ^P	2019	Percent change	Coefficient of variation
Total Construction	1,429,735	1,365,137	4.7	0.4
Residential	616,169	550,942	11.8	3.8
Nonresidential	813,566	814,195	-0.1	0.4
Lodging	28,487	33,071	-13.9	1.2
Office	81,139	84,862	-4.4	1.2
Commercial	83,848	80,435	4.2	0.9
Health care	47,512	45,560	4.3	1.5
Educational	104,508	105,374	-0.8	1.3
Religious	3,157	3,544	-10.9	4.3
Public safety	14,995	10,530	42.4	1.9
Amusement and recreation	26,913	28,803	-6.6	1.7
Transportation	56,684	57,154	-0.8	0.8
Communication	22,688	22,242	2.0	NA
Power	119,081	113,885	4.6	0.2
Highway and street	99,156	97,559	1.6	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	26,589	26,089	1.9	1.7
Water supply	18,525	15,882	16.6	2.7
Conservation and development	8,432	9,126	-7.6	1.4
Manufacturing	71,854	80,079	-10.3	1.6
Total Private Construction¹	1,079,276	1,030,704	4.7	0.5
Residential ²	607,593	544,449	11.6	1.1
New single family	302,049	279,962	7.9	1.0
New multifamily	85,169	80,110	6.3	5.2
Nonresidential	471,682	486,255	-3.0	0.5
Lodging	27,437	31,931	-14.1	1.3
Office	70,020	73,945	-5.3	1.4
Commercial	79,869	76,432	4.5	0.9
Health care	38,128	36,287	5.1	1.8
Educational	17,224	21,087	-18.3	1.9
Religious	3,153	3,544	-11.0	4.3
Public safety	110	227	-51.5	17.4
Amusement and recreation	12,654	15,139	-16.4	2.2
Transportation	15,473	17,080	-9.4	0.7
Communication	22,563	22,112	2.0	NA
Power	112,269	107,146	4.8	0.1
Sewage and waste disposal	369	681	-45.8	10.9
Water supply	482	352	36.9	20.8
Manufacturing	71,528	79,757	-10.3	1.6
Total Public Construction³	350,460	334,433	4.8	0.7
Residential	8,576	6,493	32.1	3.8
Nonresidential	341,884	327,940	4.3	0.7
Office	11,119	10,916	1.9	2.6
Commercial	3,978	4,003	-0.6	5.4
Health care	9,384	9,274	1.2	1.5
Educational	87,283	84,287	3.6	1.4
Public safety	14,886	10,303	44.5	1.9
Amusement and recreation	14,259	13,664	4.4	2.5
Transportation	41,211	40,074	2.8	0.9
Power	6,813	6,739	1.1	3.6
Highway and street	98,829	97,091	1.8	1.6
Sewage and waste disposal	26,220	25,408	3.2	1.8
Water supply	18,043	15,530	16.2	2.7
Conservation and development	8,355	9,059	-7.8	1.4

NA Not applicable ¹Preliminary

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: highway and street, and conservation and development.

²Includes private residential improvements.

³Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Construction Spending, February 1, 2021. Additional information on the survey methodology may be found at <www.census.gov/construction/c30/meth.html>